

Buckeye Wildlife Corridors Best Practices Guide

Stakeholder Engagement

The City of Buckeye is preparing a Best Practices Guide to promote wildlife connectivity throughout the city's planning area. The Guide will not be a regulatory document, but instead will provide guidance on how best to preserve wildlife connectivity as future growth and development occurs.

The Guide will be based on three interwoven Strands, or themes: Environment, Growth, and Quality of Life. The Guide will advise on how best to address issues relative to each Strand. This will ensure a well-balanced approach to implementation.

What We Heard

As part of the collaborative process, the consultant team engaged various stakeholders including landowners/developers, utilities, agencies, and advocacy groups to gain input on issues related to the development of the Guide, as well as feedback on how best to approach implementation of the Guide. The key points of what we heard are organized below by Strand.



Environment

Communication

Keep all stakeholders involved and informed on species and habitats, throughout and after the process of developing the Guide.

Vitality

Conserve wildlife corridors to ensure generational habitat existence while maintaining development.

Transparency

To the extent possible, information on suitable corridors/connections should be promptly shared with all parties throughout the Guide's lifetime.

Connectivity

Connectivity throughout the project area between multiple landowners is key to the success of the Guide.



Growth

Partnership

Implementation of the corridors should be done in partnership through dedication, preservation, incentives, and agreements for operations, maintenance, and liability.

Economics

Ensure the corridors are preserved, designed, and maintained, throughout its lifecycle, in a financially feasible manner.

Infrastructure

Thoughtfully provide new infrastructure in order to deliver utilities efficiently while minimizing habitat disturbance.

Costs vs. Value

Short-term costs should enhance growth and development and long-term implementation should add value for the city, residents, and landowners.



Quality of Life

Education

Educate stakeholders and the community about:

- The importance of corridors and the types of wildlife supported,
- The outline of best management practices and identification of long-term management responsibilities,
- Types of activities that could and should not occur within the corridors, and
- How landowners, advocacy groups, public agencies, and utility providers play a role in identifying and preserving wildlife corridors.

Multi-Use

The benefits derived from the corridors should address all stakeholders and allow multi-use where appropriate.

